

Appl. No. 10/700,131
Atty. Docket No. 9408
Reply dated January 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed October 5, 2006
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 15 - 23 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due. A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement previously submitted to the Office on September 28, 2006 but apparently not received by the Office is enclosed with this paper.

Claims 1 - 11 are canceled without prejudice.

New Claim 15 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 1; p. 5, line 1 of the specification; and p. 5 lines 6-13 of the specification.

New Claim 16 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 2.

New claim 17 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 3.

New Claim 18 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 4.

New claim 19 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 5.

New Claim 20 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 6.

New claim 21 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 7.

New claim 22 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 10.

New claim 23 has been added. Support for this amendment is found in original Claim 11.

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New claim 24 has been added. Support for this amendment is found at page 7, lines 3-9 of the Specification.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over U.S. 6,461,720 in view of U.S. 6,129,972

Claims 1-24

The Office Action rejected Claims 2-7 and 9-11 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. 6,461,720 to Graff (hereinafter "Graff") in view of U.S. 6,129,972 to McNeil (hereinafter "McNeil"). The Applicant traverses the rejection to the claims as they are now amended on the ground that Graff in view of McNeil fails to provide any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to one of skill in the art to arrive at the Applicant's claimed limitations.

As amended, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that the ends of the connecting elements are the same height as the raised protrusions, but that at least a portion of the span of each connecting elements is recessed below the height of the raised protrusions. Graff discloses connecting elements (Graff, Figs. 1, 3 and 4) which are described as "low wall protrusions" (Graff, Col. 3, line 58), but Graff teaches that the low wall protrusions is less than that of the high wall protrusions (Graff, Col. 4, lines 1-2). McNeil fails to remedy this deficiency as McNeil teaches discrete embossments (McNeil, Figs. 4A-C) and continuous embossment lines (McNeil, Col. 6, lines 21-24), but fails to disclose raised protrusions with connecting elements having ends the same height as the raised protrusion and a portion of the span of the connecting element being recessed below the height of the raised portions.

Thus, Claims 1-24 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Graff in view of McNeil because not every limitation claimed by the Applicant is taught, suggested, or motivated. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be removed.

Claim 24

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Claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, that there are a **first sub pattern** and a **second sub pattern** wherein the **first and second sub patterns are not parallel** and that the first set of elements and second set of elements are **not simultaneously visible** under one combination of lighting angle and viewing angle.

Graff fails to disclose non-parallel first and second sub-patterns as are claimed by the Applicant. The Office Action relies on McNeil for the disclosure of multiple non-parallel sub patterns (Office Action dated October 5, 2006, p. 3). However, McNeil fails to disclose that the sub patterns are not simultaneously visible under one combination of lighting angle and viewing angle as the multiple sub patterns disclosed in Figs. 3 and 4A-C of McNeil are clearly visible at the same time. Thus, Graff in view of McNeil fails to recite a first and second set of non-parallel sub patterns that are not simultaneously visible under one combination of lighting and viewing angle.

Thus, Claim 24 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Graff in view of McNeil because not every limitation claimed by the Applicant is taught, suggested, or motivated. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be removed.

Conclusion

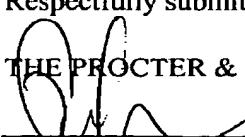
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Early and favorable action in the case are respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention from the applied reference. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of Claims 15-24 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By


Peter T. Nguyen

Registration No. 58,282
(513) 634-4268

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